

Amendment

In the Claims

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9/11/08
1. (Currently amended) A conjugate for use in targeting a drug to a tissue, wherein a digestive enzyme is overexpressed in the extracellular space of the tissue overexpresses a digestive enzyme, the conjugate comprising: a polymeric carrier; a drug molecule; and a linker that includes a first end and a second end; wherein the polymeric carrier is associated with the first end of the linker and the drug is associated with the second end of the linker and wherein the linker includes an oligopeptide recognition segment that is cleaved when the conjugate is exposed to the digestive enzyme; and wherein the digestive enzyme is selected from the group consisting of serine proteases and matrix metalloproteinases.
2. (Previously presented) The conjugate of claim 1 further comprising: additional drug molecules; and additional linkers, wherein each drug molecule is indirectly associated with the polymeric carrier via one of the linkers and wherein each linker includes an oligopeptide recognition segment that is cleaved when the conjugate is exposed to the digestive enzyme.
3. (Original) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the polymeric carrier is hydrophilic, biocompatible and biodegradable.
4. (Original) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the polymeric carrier is larger than the renal excretion limit.
5. (Original) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the drug is a small molecule drug.